

# THE BELLOWS

19th GREAT YEAR

March 19, 1998

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XIX, No. 6

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5..go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. S...turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday March 19th, 1998..7:30 till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:30 pm)
WHY	Short business meeting..short show report..auction (one item-lot-per member please)..door prize..Show & Tell..member trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover during business meeting). <u>Program</u> : New member <u>Jay Bender</u> the designer of the Bender View Camera kits sold worldwide for the last 20 years will talk about his kits. SEE BELOW Ed.

## NEW MEMBER TO PROVIDE CLUB PROGRAM:

As announced above new member Jay Bender will present a program at our March meeting. Jay, a resident of Plain which is near Leavenworth, Washington, (I wonder if there is a town named Jane close by? Ed.) will show highlights of building his low cost "do-it-yourself" view camera kits.

Jay introduced his 4x5 kit while still an undergraduate photography student at Southern Illinois University. He studied under well known photographer, collector and historian Charles Swedlund. Jay worked with Swedlund on the 2nd edition of Swedlund's well known photography text book; doing all of the behind the scenes darkroom work and testing for the book.

Jay, who is also a collector, will bring some items for swapping etc. If you would like to preview Jay's website you can at: <http://www.benderphoto.com>

## HERE COME THE FIRST SHOWS OF SPRING:

There are two shows coming up fast. First, on March 21st the Portland Photographers Forum' 16th Annual Swap Meet will be held at The Collectors's Market (old Pay-n-Pak store) located at 8900 N. Vancouver Rd. Portland. (Leave I-5 at exit 306B... travel east and south on WHITAKER RD. for approximately ¾ of a mile to the "T" intersection at SCHMEER RD....turn left..go to N.VANCOUVER AVE and turn into parking lot. For tables and all information call(503) 557-9196.

Second is Siggi's Vancouver Canada show on Sunday April 5th. Show location is Jericho Hill Centre 4196 W. 4th Ave. Early in at 9:00 a.m. (\$15.00) Regular 10:00 a.m. (\$3.00) Show will end at 4 p.m. There is free parking, food and 130 tables of "treasures". Call Siggi (604) 941-0300 for all information.

## NO BUS TRIP THIS YEAR:

Member Bob Peters had the interesting suggestion at our February meeting that the club members rent a bus to go to the Vancouver show in April. About 45 members would have had to sign up at a cost of about \$20.00. After a show of hands it was felt that there was not enough time to put the trip together for this year but to check on interest earlier in the fall next year.

Thank you Bob for the interesting idea!

**\*\*BACKSIDE INFORMATION\*\***

February meeting came to order at 7:35 p.m. 55 members and 2 guests were present. Minutes of January meeting approved as read. Treasurer reported a positive bank balance.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Bob Kelly was not present to report on club Website. Report on January Portland Show said it was not very good. The Everett show was lousy. Mike Immel and his show committee gave reports. Everything is going smoothly. 250 tables sold with 14 people on a waiting list. 13 exhibit tables reserved. Little Nickel and newspaper ads will go in during March and April.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Reminder of Portland camera show on March 21st. This is mainly a show put on by a user group rather than a collector group. Bob Peters suggested that club members could rent a bus to go to the Vancouver B.C. show for about \$750. (See page one-Ed.)

**PROGRAM:**

Member Jim Villet showed some of his favorite cameras and told how he acquired them. He said he never stays interested in one camera long enough for it to become his favorite.

**SHOW & TELL..AUCTION..DOOR PRIZES:**

Eight members brought interesting treasures for Show & Tell. Seven items were auctioned. Six sold for a total of \$93.00. Door prizes were won by Rick Rainero..Kodak truck and Chuck Richlin..camera hat.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. for cookie munching and selling/swaping.

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**UNHAPPY FACE CAUSES CONFUSION:**

If the unhappy face you saw in the item on page one of the February Bellows made you think you had not paid your 1998 dues..it didn't! It said to check your MAILING LABEL for said face. Sorry for any misunderstanding. If you are reading this your dues for 1998 are PAID!

**ANOTHER CAMERA SHOW?**

The March issue of CameraShopper, besides listing our show on April 25th, lists a show on June 20th in Gresham, Oregon. The show is to be held at the National Armory, 500 NE Division St. in Gresham. Public is in from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact the Columbia Gorge Camera Club, Janet Wilcox, 4635 SW Evans St., Portland, Oregon 97219 phone (503) 977-7818 for all the information.

This is the first I have heard of this show this year. I think this is their third year. As I remember they are nice folks but they had a very low buyer turn-out last year. However, it is a wonderful time to visit Portland and the beautiful Columbia River-Ed.

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Thanks to the Arizona Photographic Collectors for: **This Month's Mystery Question :**  
(Answer at end of news letter, Ed.)

What unique 1906 plate camera made in France had 12 chambers to allow for 12 different exposures?



**THE BELLOWS** Newsletter is published 9 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to: Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is: <http://www.geocities.com/eureka/park/3740/>

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916. P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our last Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DAVE STUDEBAKER, (253) 582-4878



The following story first appeared in the Cascade Panorama and is used here with much thanks. Ed.

## The Wearing of the Gold

by Bill Kimber

All of us started out as beginning camera collectors. Somehow we became interested in those instruments that photographed our past and began gathering them to our bosom, so to speak. One of the first cameras I began looking for was the Anniversary Kodak box camera. As we all know, this was a special edition of the No. 2 Hawk-Eye, Model C, issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Eastman Kodak Company. In 1930 approximately 550,000 were given away to children who turned twelve years old that year. The camera was covered with a tan colored retile-grained paper and had a gold-colored foil seal on the upper rear corner of the right side. McKeown's

*Price Guide* says that on many of these cameras the gold coloring is often worn off, leaving the foil seal looking silver. I think in fact nearly all of the cameras you find have silver seals. More on this later.

When I began collecting cameras in the mid-seventies, I was pleased to acquire a 50th anniversary camera but was disappointed that it came without a box, and the seal was indeed silver. Then at the Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society's fourth Show & Sale (back in the days when anyone with cameras to sell could buy a table), a truly wondrous thing happened. A fellow in his late twenties set up a table of items for sale that were most unique. He had original advertising material, cameras and related equipment from the early thirties. It was like going back in time to a 1930s camera store close-out sale. As I gathered up some choice items, including a rare Kodak dime cylinder bank, I asked him how he had managed to come by all this 1930s photographica esoterica. He grinned and told me.

Back in the early thirties, his Grandmother and Grandfather had indeed owned a camera store in a small town north of Seattle. Unfortunately, Grandfather, who had a roving eye as we say, had become infatuated with a traveling Kodak equipment saleslady. One thing led to another, and one fine night Grandfather just up and ran off with her, never to be heard from again. (She pushed his button and he did the rest, to paraphrase a phrase.)

Grandmother had not taken this well. Instead of remaining the "wronged sole proprietor of the camera store to be pitied by one and all," she had said "to hell with Grandfather, cameras and the store," or words to that effect. In a fit of understandable pique, she had closed the shop and stored the contents at her home in what must have been a truly well-built and marvelously dry basement. There this "treasure" had remained for fifty years. Hearing about our show, the grandson had dug it out and brought a portion of it to sell. I assure you that he had done his homework, and his prices were not "garage sale," but you would kill to see them in today's market. What had happened to his Grandmother he did not say.

He had an Anniversary Kodak with its box in very good shape. The seal was silver, but I was after the outer box. Returning to my table, I tucked the box away and set the camera out for sale. It looked unused except for that silver seal, and I thought it would sell.

That evening when I got home, I took a closer look at the unsold camera. Imagine my surprise when I opened it, revealing the original box of 120 film that came inside each camera, nestled in its tissue paper. This camera had never been in the sweaty hands of some twelve year-old budding photographer. It had never been given away. This puppy was in the truest sense *mint*! Thank God no one had bought it! I was pleased, to say the least.

Why was the seal silver and not gold? It had never been handled; it was not "worn." My best guess is that the box and camera were used by the Grandparents as part of their

window display announcing the great 50th anniversary giveaway. There the camera had sat in the store's sunlit window (on the few days when it does not rain here in the Great Northwest), and the sun's rays had faded the gold seal to silver. Maybe. I showed the camera to Jim McKeown and advanced my sun's rays theory for why most all Anniversary Kodak's are found with a silver seal. Jim seemed unconvinced, patted me on the head and left. What do you think?

Finally, a few months after the show, a nice older couple sold me their son's Anniversary Kodak camera with its box that had been sitting in a dark closet since soon after the boy got it. It turned out he hated taking pictures. Yep, you guessed it. The seal was as gold as a twenty dollar gold piece.



From *The Saturday Evening Post* ad; seal inset from *Collier's* ad.



## Cleaning Deco Cameras

by Charlie Kamerman

I was lucky to buy an uncommon green Lightning Bolt Petite camera recently that was in pretty good shape but was very dirty, probably a 7.5 to 8 on a scale from 1 to 10. You can do a lot to enhance these cameras substantially but you can't bring them back from the dead. Typically, I feel comfortable if I can raise the grade 1 to 1.5 points. You are dreaming if you think you can do much better.

I'll discuss mainly the metal and painted surfaces. Although I have experimented with cleaning cloth bodies, I have nothing to offer, other than don't repaint them. I pretty much accept them as they are. If you are lucky enough to have colored bellows, *leave it alone*. Be happy with what you have. Here is some related advice: *Never pull* a colored bellows out of the camera. I will repeat that: *Never pull* a colored bellows out of the camera. Every colored Kodak camera comes apart to allow you to load film into the camera. *Always* take the camera apart and push the bellows out gently from the inside. I start from the inside edges and work towards the lens. I have seen someone pull the lens standard right off the bellows more than once, before I could scream, "Stop!" I once bought a beautiful lavender Petite for \$25 because the owner could not get the bellows out. Although it took 3 hours, I got it out intact by gently applying pressure from the inside, working in a circular pattern towards the lens. If you have a black bellows, just show the camera closed. It will definitely look more attractive.

To improve the metal, I do a three step process every time: Clean, revitalize and protect. It is generally simple and not too time consuming. I use Meguiar's car cleaner products, which have been around since 1901. I have been using them since 1979, when I bought my first car. It's also the year I started collecting cameras. Generally you can buy their products at car parts chain stores. I clean with Heavy Duty Car Cleaner. Its unique formula blends mild abrasives with rich nutrients that feed the paint while removing layers of oxidation and stubborn stains. I revitalize with Deep Crystal Polish, a super rich polishing cream that puts back into paint valuable oils lost through oxidation. I protect with Cleaner Wax, the easiest way to clean, enrich and protect paint. It deep-cleans your finish and removes fine scratches in that order.

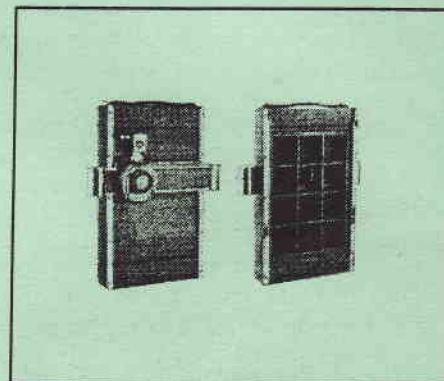
The key is *non-abrasive* or *mild abrasive*. You can probably use any non-abrasive products. I have seen what happens when someone tries to scratch off a variety of surface defects, and it's not a pretty picture. Rubbing compounds, abrasive cleaners, sand paper, steel wool, screw drivers and even fingernails make things much worse than they really are. Once you have mutilated a surface, there is no turning back.

When applying cleaners, use only a soft, thin, white, cotton cloth. White allows you to see how you are doing, thin allows you to feel what is going on. Do not use your fingernail as a weapon, because it can cause surface scratches. I prefer thin cloth like old jockey underwear; a bit thicker but still acceptable are cloth diapers. Now you know the real reason that I have had five children: to keep a healthy supply of diapers available. Always wipe in a circular motion, but do not go back and forth over the same spot. Remember that these are not cars and that you are not working on large areas, so a little cleaner goes a long way. Continually move to a new spot on your cloth. It is easy to have a small speck of rust stuck in the middle of your cloth that will scratch the surface that you are trying to improve. A thin cloth allows you to feel for those things before it's too late.

Do not be afraid to repeat all three steps. It might take a few tries to get the shine you want. You do not have to grind your fingers to the bone; slow, even pressure works the best. For those hard to reach areas and edges, I have found that bamboo skewers, which can be purchased at any grocery store, do the trick. The point will reach just about anywhere by itself or with a cloth around it. You can apply enough pressure to get rid of the dirt without scratching the surface. Keep the camera closed as much as possible, and when you clean the inside bed, keep the lens board inside its housing. When you push the bellows out and clean around the lens, be careful not to push your finger through the bellows. Keep all chemicals off the bellows as well as the cloth or leather body. Use a clean cloth to wipe down the camera when you are done, then keep your hands off it. You might use white gloves as you work, but I do not. I have cleaned the metal surface on many cameras including the Gift Kodak, Beau Brownie, Bantam Special and several Petites — Coquette, Step Pattern, and Diamond Door. By the way, I also use this same technique on porcelain signs. However, I don't wax my car anymore. It's too much work, and I let the dirt protect the surface.

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**Answer:** *The Le Mosaic is the size and shape of a cigar box. The lens and shutter assembly both move horizontally and vertically*



*to take up to 12 exposures on one plate. Front interior partitions can be adjusted for taking 9 exposures per plate. They list for \$2,500*